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Chair: Mr. Cardi (Italy)
later: Ms. Stepowska (Vice-Chair) (Poland)
later: Mr. Cardi (Chair) (Italy)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Agenda item 21: Globalization and interdependence (A/69/203)

(a) International migration and development (A/69/207 and A/69/392; A/C.2/69/2)

(b) Culture and sustainable development (A/69/216)

1. **Mr. Van Der Geest** (Chief, Development Strategy and Policy Analysis Unit, Department of Economic and Social Affairs), introducing the report of the Secretary-General concerning an updated overview of the major international economic and policy challenges for equitable and inclusive sustained economic growth and sustainable development, and of the role of the United Nations in addressing those issues in the light of the New International Economic Order (A/69/203), said that although the share of developing countries in global output had significantly increased in the four decades since the General Assembly's adoption of the Declaration on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order in 1974, it would take major coordinated international action to meet legitimate aspirations for global sustainable development and inclusive growth.

2. Developing countries, in addition to facing country-specific issues such as structural imbalances, incoherent macroeconomic management and political tensions, must address the challenge of strengthening domestic growth while simultaneously reducing their vulnerability to external forces, primarily those driven by monetary policies originating in major developed countries. In the context of the fragile global economic recovery, as well as destabilizing capital outflows and volatile exchange rates, there was a need for more effective international policy coordination. Furthermore, job creation policies had been limited and uncoordinated and, while an expansionist monetary environment had helped prevent larger falls in employment, low interest rates had not been sufficient to stimulate employment growth. The proliferation of regional trade agreements had reduced transparency and uniformity in the global trading system and led to higher transaction and administration costs for developing countries.

3. It was essential to address the high economic, social and environmental inequality both across and within countries. Recent studies by the International Monetary Fund had shown that countries with higher

income inequality were likelier to experience shorter growth spells. In that regard, the integration of developing countries into trade and financial markets had strengthened economic growth in ways that had fostered income disparities. With globalization, rising competition for labour had curtailed the potential for increased productivity to lead to higher wages. In that regard, redistributive policies were a tool for reducing income inequality and promoting sustainable development. However, the international mobility of capital flows, inter alia, was a major constraint on national redistributive mechanisms, impeding the taxation of capital income and thereby limiting public resources.

4. Environmental issues would need to be central in shaping the post-2015 development agenda; in that regard the report of the Secretary-General focused on two of the goals proposed by the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, namely, sustainable cities, and sustainable agriculture and food and nutrition security. By 2050, an estimated 70 per cent of the world's population would be living in cities. While urbanization was a potential driver for investment in infrastructure and for building more efficient, more affordable and greener cities, many developing countries had been overwhelmed by the environmental challenges posed by significant migration from rural areas and the need for access to safe water and sanitation continued to grow. Furthermore, by 2050, food production would need to increase by 70 per cent globally and by 100 per cent in developing countries.

5. The United Nations must play a central role in advancing the global development agenda beyond the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Sustainable development, with its vision of integrating economic growth, social justice and environmental stewardship, had become the guiding principle and operational standard for the post-2015 development agenda, built on a far-reaching vision, concise goals and targets, a global partnership to mobilize means of implementation, and a participatory review, monitoring and accountability framework.

6. **Mr. Wilmoth** (Director, Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs), introducing under sub-item (a) the Secretary-General's report on international migration and development (A/69/207), said that progress had been made towards integrating migration into the post-2015 development

agenda, notwithstanding the existence of new and unprecedented challenges. Following the landmark High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development in 2013, the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals had identified key aspects of migration and mobility that should be incorporated into the new agenda, such as the need to protect the rights of all workers, including migrants; facilitate orderly, safe and regular migration; reduce remittance transaction costs; eliminate human trafficking; and recognize migrant skills and the issue of brain drain. The targets put forward reflected the complexity and scope of international migration, referring to the need to enhance the benefits of migration for development, address the lack of respect for migrants' rights and promote international cooperation on migration. The ramifications of displacement remained another key challenge that should be considered in discussions on the post-2015 development agenda. It was important to support durable solutions for refugees and displaced persons in protracted situations and to prevent displacement arising from natural or man-made disasters.

7. There was also a critical need for timely, reliable and disaggregated data on migrants and migration in order to ensure effective policymaking. In that regard, the Global Migration Group had been working with other stakeholders to assess indicators for tracking progress towards the future development goals and targets. Capacity-building in the concerned countries would be vital for producing the necessary data on a regular basis, including through surveys. The migration-related targets included in the proposed sustainable development goals could only be monitored with accurate data.

8. Additional challenges for the implementation of the Declaration of the 2013 High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, and the Secretary-General's eight-point agenda for action, included the significant gaps remaining in the ratification and implementation of relevant international instruments, including the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Migrant Workers Convention); abuse of migrants during the recruitment and placement process, including excessive recruitment fees and debt bondage; and lack of progress in recognizing educational and professional qualifications and in promoting the

portability of social security benefits and other acquired rights. Such issues deserved consideration as the Committee discussed the draft resolution on international migration and development.

9. Finally, while it was clear that migration could serve as a powerful tool for development when grounded in human rights and supported by fair, well-governed policies, positive results did not arise on their own but required joint action. Discussion was needed on how the issue of migration could best be considered by the Economic and Social Council, how progress towards the implementation of the Declaration of the High-level Dialogue and the Secretary-General's eight-point agenda for action could be monitored, and whether there should be a third High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development. Collective action could help build the growing consensus on migration to ensure that the Committee would have concrete results to report when it returned to the agenda item in 2016.

10. **Ms. Goucha** (Director ad interim, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) New York office, and representative of UNESCO to the United Nations), introducing under sub-item (b) the report of UNESCO on culture and sustainable development, transmitted in a note by the Secretary-General ([A/69/216](#)), said that the report sought to contribute to the process of elaborating the post-2015 development agenda. It had been borne out of a series of events and consultations, including the special thematic debate on culture and sustainable development held by the President of the General Assembly in partnership with UNESCO in May 2014, which had concluded that culture was central in five key areas of the post-2015 agenda, namely the eradication of poverty, quality education, sustainable environmental management, the sustainability of cities and social inclusiveness and cohesion. Along with other agencies and partners, UNESCO had undertaken a number of recent initiatives focused on the link between culture and sustainable development, in particular the publication of the Creative Economy Report jointly with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in 2013, and a series of joint programmes on culture and development that had been financed by the [UNDP/Spain](#) MDG Achievement Fund and had capitalized on the role of culture as a driver of development in such areas as the preservation of national heritage, tourism and intercultural dialogue.

Those activities had emphasized outreach to local communities and minorities. Most recently, the third UNESCO World Forum on Culture and Cultural Industries, held in Florence, Italy, in October 2014, had given rise to a declaration focusing on culture as a key resource for sustainable development. In addition, national consultations on the role of culture in the post-2015 agenda were being conducted jointly by UNESCO, UNDP and the United Nations Population Fund; a final report to be issued by the end of 2014 in that regard would contribute to the Secretary-General's synthesis report.

11. The report contained information on the progress made in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 68/223 on culture and sustainable development, as reported in the replies received from States Members and agencies of the United Nations. It set out strategies, actions and initiatives aimed at achieving an integrated approach to culture and sustainable development and presented conclusions regarding possible options for a consolidated United Nations approach in the areas of economic, social and environmental development. It also provided additional arguments regarding the need to integrate culture within the framework of the future system of goals, targets and indicators.

12. In that light, the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, in its final report, had proposed to reflect the role of culture with regard to the sustainability of cities, as well as education, sustainable economic growth, models of sustainable consumption and production and the preservation of oceans and ecosystems. Such targets would not only be justified but measurable thanks to the mechanisms established by UNESCO cultural conventions and indicators developed at the national level.

13. **Mr. Mollinedo Claros** (Bolivia), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the fast pace of globalization in recent years had been facilitated by rapid developments in science, technology and innovation. Science and technology, including environmentally sound technologies, had a vital role to play in fostering development and facilitating efforts to confront global challenges, including poverty eradication.

14. The nexus between migration and development should be addressed through international, regional and bilateral cooperation that recognized the economic,

social and environmental dimensions of migration and included a cultural and human perspective. Despite progress in international discussions, migration was still inadequately reflected in development frameworks, agendas and sectoral policies at the national and global levels. It was therefore necessary to explore a legally binding convention on migration and development to improve the governance of international migration and to protect and promote the human rights of migrants, regardless of their migratory status.

15. The Group urged the international community to coordinate efforts to address the challenges posed by migration in order to ensure its ability to contribute to the development of countries of origin, transit and destination, while minimizing its negative impacts. Human mobility as a key factor for sustainable development should also be adequately considered in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda. The Group condemned acts and expressions of racism, xenophobia and related intolerance against migrants, including on the basis of religion or belief, and urged States to apply and reinforce existing laws in order to eradicate impunity for such acts. Since migrant remittances constituted an important source of private capital, it was vital to create conditions for cheaper, faster and safer transfers, reduce transaction costs to less than 3 per cent and eliminate remittance corridors with costs higher than 5 per cent. However, remittances should not be viewed as a substitute for foreign direct investment (FDI), official development assistance (ODA), debt relief or other public financing for development.

16. Culture was also an essential component of sustainable development, as it represented a source of identity, creativity and innovation for individuals and communities, as well as a potential source of decent work, especially for youth. The Group emphasized the links between cultural and biological diversity and the positive contribution of local and indigenous traditional knowledge in addressing environmental challenges in a sustainable manner. It looked forward to the full integration of culture in the post-2015 development agenda.

17. **Ms. King** (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines), speaking on behalf of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), said that six years after the start of the global financial crisis, the Community's member States had yet to return to pre-crisis levels of income, employment or development. High external debt was a

particular challenge, and many CARICOM countries had entered into International Monetary Fund programmes of varying severity. In shaping the post-2015 development agenda, it would be critical to ensure that globalization was inclusive and equitable, consistent not only with the expectations raised by the Declaration on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order but also with the obligations of the Charter of the United Nations.

18. Building on the outcome documents of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) and, most recently, the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, it would be vital to strengthen global partnerships in trade, migration, ODA and technology to ensure that globalization benefited all countries and not only a few. It was also essential to address the unique vulnerabilities of small island States and develop macroeconomic policies designed to strengthen international cooperation in trade, increase productive job opportunities and promote agricultural and industrial development. Achieving inclusive economic growth in developing countries required open, non-discriminatory, development-oriented trade systems and access to technology. CARICOM therefore appreciated the efforts to bring about a successful conclusion of the first multilateral trade agreement, and called for the successful conclusion of the Doha Development Round.

19. Culture was a source of pride for the Caribbean region and a tool for preserving the vibrant cultural heritage of CARICOM. In its Havana Declaration, the Community had stressed the importance of culture and cultural industries for national economies and had pledged to promote cultural entrepreneurship as a tool for preserving cultural heritage and generating job opportunities.

20. As a further step in deepening its integration, the Community's 1989 Grand Anse Declaration had committed its member States to the goal of free movement of nationals within the region by eliminating the need for work permits. In that connection, cooperation, partnerships and shared responsibility were vital in order to protect the fundamental human rights of migrants, ensure that migration was undertaken by choice and enable it to contribute to development.

21. *Ms. Stepowska (Poland), Vice-Chair, took the Chair.*

22. **Mr. Mendoza-García** (Costa Rica), speaking on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), said that international migration was a multidimensional phenomenon that should be addressed in the context of sustainable development and with full respect for the human rights and fundamental freedoms of migrants, regardless of their migratory status. The United Nations, in particular the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, offered the most appropriate framework for comprehensive attention to migration and related questions.

23. While it was vital to promote conditions for cheaper, safer and faster transfers of remittances, such remittances should not be viewed as a substitute for FDI, ODA, debt relief or other public financing for development. The growth of reverse migration between the developed world and the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean should also be noted. Not only were migrants returning to their countries of origin, but citizens from the developed world were migrating to developing countries. There were also increasing flows of migrants within geographical regions, as well as growing South-South migration. While Governments had the right to regulate the flow of migrants within and across their territory, they should not adopt laws or regulations that criminalized the act of migration. CELAC called on all States to eliminate laws that fostered unsafe migration, which could even lead to migrant death.

24. The States members of CELAC strongly condemned all acts and expressions of racism, xenophobia and related intolerance against migrants, including on the basis of religion or belief, and urged States to end impunity for those who committed such acts. They were also concerned about the vulnerability of a growing number of migrants, in particular women and unaccompanied children, who were attempting to cross international borders without the required documentation. There was an urgent need to establish or update national and regional norms for preventing and combating human trafficking and migrant smuggling, and to strengthen cooperation to protect victims and bring traffickers to justice. By the same token, CELAC stressed the important role of migrants as partners in the development of their countries of origin, transit and destination, and emphasized the

need to facilitate circular mobility by reducing the fees paid to recruiters, improving the portability of rights to social security and other acquired benefits, and promoting mutual recognition of migrants' professional and educational credentials. It was also important to recognize migrants' right to return to their countries of origin and the need to create the social and political conditions that would offer them opportunities on arrival. Urging Member States to ratify relevant international instruments and to comply with them, CELAC stressed that migration should be an integral part of negotiations to establish the post-2015 development agenda, with due regard given to the promotion and protection of migrants' human rights.

25. With the region's rich cultural heritage reflecting the diverse contributions of its indigenous and Afro-descendent peoples, as well as those of European and Asian ancestry, CELAC attached great importance to the recognition of culture as an enabler and driver of sustainable development. In that regard, in 2013 the Community had held its first meeting of Ministers of Culture and issued the Suriname Declaration, with the objective of advancing cultural integration, preserving cultural biodiversity and heritage, and promoting culture as an important avenue for sustainable development. Furthermore, in 2014 the CELAC countries had adopted the Special Declaration on Culture as a Promoter of Human Development, which had highlighted the contribution of culture to the integration of its peoples, preserving and promoting its multi-ethnic, multicultural and multilingual character. Cultural policies should promote values such as respect for life, human dignity, multiculturalism, and the principles of justice, tolerance and rejection of violence as integral elements in the construction of a culture of peace.

26. Finally, CELAC supported an exchange of methodologies that would permit a quantitative and qualitative analysis of the real impact of culture, and cultural and creative industries, on the economies and social development of its member countries, in order to promote more efficient decision-making to consolidate culture as a tool for development and social advancement.

27. **Mr. Cabactulan** (Philippines), speaking on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), said that ASEAN was a powerhouse for labour and migration. With 600 million people, or 8.8 per cent of the world's population, the South-East

Asian region would rank as the world's sixth largest economy when the ASEAN Economic Community was formally constituted in 2015. The free flow of services and skilled labour within the new Community would deeply impact international migration and development in the region. ASEAN was committed to protecting migrants' human rights and eliminating exploitation, including human trafficking; such efforts would require international, regional and bilateral cooperation.

28. ASEAN had set in place a framework for the protection of migrant labour in the region; Governments, trade union councils and employers' confederations were also working together to align legal and policy frameworks on labour migration and the protection of migrants' rights. The Association agreed that the costs of labour migration across borders should be reduced and that migration issues should be included in the post-2015 development agenda. With a view to enhancing regional mobility, ASEAN had already begun to implement a number of specific mutual recognition arrangements and harmonized regulatory regimes, including the recognition of professional qualifications in the skilled sector; it was also adopting common competency standards in tourism, and was taking measures to facilitate the entry or movement of natural persons engaged in the trade of goods, services and investments.

29. The situation of stranded migrants and their families was a matter of concern. The Association supported initiatives by United Nations Member States seeking to strengthen national capacities to assist migrants who were unable to return to their country of origin as a result of humanitarian crises in their country of destination or transit.

30. ASEAN had cooperated with the International Labour Organization (ILO) to gather statistical information on migrant workers in all its member countries. In so doing, it sought to identify capacity-building needs and ensure that its data collection on migration was harmonized, consistent and accurate. It also supported the sharing of information and best practices with international and other organizations. There was a need for enhanced migration partnerships through multilateral initiatives such as those already launched by ILO, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the Global Forum on Migration and Development and the European Commission, among other entities. One example of such an endeavour was the Association's cooperation with ILO and the

Australian Agency for International Development to protect migrants within the Greater Mekong Subregion from labour exploitation. ASEAN also supported the Global Forum's Collaborative Action Programme to Prevent Trafficking of Women and Girls in South Asia, and concerned member States were strengthening their enforcement and monitoring measures to protect workers, particularly in high-risk sectors for trafficking and labour exploitation, including household services and the garment sector.

31. **Mr. Msosa** (Malawi), speaking on behalf of the African Group, said that the Group wished to reiterate the importance of multilateralism to the formulation of the post-2015 development agenda. The United Nations would have a critical role to play in creating an enabling international environment and an effective global partnership to mobilize resources. While advances in information and communications technology were indeed turning the world into a global village, efforts to transform globalization into a force for good had not achieved optimal results. There had been unbalanced outcomes both among and within countries, and countries with the highest poverty levels had little or no voice in shaping the globalization process.

32. Globalization needed to be people-centred and mindful of human rights, cultural identity and the need for decent work. It should empower the most vulnerable members of society and promote an equitable international economic system that took into account different national realities, capacities and development levels. Most importantly, it should foster strengthened global partnership for development and help overcome inequalities. A stronger and more efficient multilateral system was needed for effective globalization. The Group therefore called for further reforms within the United Nations system to enhance its democratic governance, legitimacy and coherence.

33. The Group was pleased that the Open Working Group had addressed the issue of migration in its proposed sustainable development goals; it also took note of the recommendations that had emerged from the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development held in October 2013. The rights of migrants, especially women, children and other vulnerable groups, should be protected in every phase of the migration process. The Group called for full implementation of ILO standards regarding migrants and their families, as well as full adherence to the

International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the Durban Programme of Action.

34. The Group, noting with concern that Africa was paying approximately US\$ 1.8 billion per year in excess transfer fees, welcomed all initiatives aimed at reducing the cost of remittances. In addition, the technology gap between rich and poor countries reinforced inequalities and undermined poverty eradication. The Group therefore called on the international community to enhance regional international cooperation for research and technological development, including financing mechanisms. The Group also recognized the potential of culture as a driver of sustainable development and underscored the need to respect cultural diversity and protect traditional knowledge and cultural expressions in the global development framework.

35. **Mr. Busuttil** (Observer for the European Union), speaking also on behalf of the candidate countries Montenegro, Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; the stabilization and association process country Bosnia and Herzegovina; and, in addition, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, said that governance frameworks for mobility remained weak in many countries worldwide, increasing the costs of migration for Governments, and also for migrants, who were vulnerable to human rights violations, exploitation by smugglers and loss of life. Countries of origin, transit and destination had a shared responsibility to ensure that migration was safe, and also to address the root causes of irregular and forced migration. The European Union and its member States reaffirmed their commitment to the Declaration of the 2013 High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development and had been working to implement elements of the eight-point plan of action proposed by the Secretary-General. They also welcomed the input provided by the 2014 summit of the Global Forum on Migration and Development, and were pleased that the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals had included issues such as remittance transfer costs, human trafficking and migrant workers' rights in its outcome document.

36. Progress had been made in strengthening the development focus of discussions on migration, but further efforts were required to fully harness the development potential of diasporas, as well as to mainstream gender. The European Union had launched a project in cooperation with the Organisation for

Economic Co-operation and Development and ILO to assess the economic contribution of labour immigration to development in destination countries in the global South. Its external migration policy focused on building partnerships with non-European Union countries, and a number of mobility partnerships had been signed.

37. The world was witnessing record levels of forced displacement; many refugees and internally displaced persons found themselves in protracted situations in which they needed attention from development actors as well as humanitarian assistance. The European Union had already begun to implement a regional development and protection programme for the Middle East and was developing similar programmes for North Africa and the Horn of Africa. It also actively contributed to the Migrants in Countries in Crisis initiative of IOM. The increase in crisis situations caused by both natural and man-made crises underlined the need to strengthen preparedness and identify good practices that could be included in voluntary guidelines.

38. **Mr. Meza-Cuadra** (Peru), speaking on behalf of the Group of Friends on Culture and Development, said that the international community had recognized the potential of culture to contribute to development objectives and build peaceful, inclusive societies. Bearing in mind that the General Assembly, in resolution 68/223, had encouraged Member States to give due consideration to culture and sustainable development in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda, the Group wished to highlight that safeguarding cultural heritage produced economic and social benefits by promoting tourism and enhancing sustainable urban management, as well as making intangible contributions to collective identity. Furthermore, cultural industries led to the emergence of creative micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises that provided decent jobs for young people. Such industries should be encouraged through enhanced access to adequate financing, new technologies and capacity-building.

39. Traditional values, knowledge and skills were important to the quality of education. In addition, cultural identity tended to preserve the relations of individuals and communities with their environments and promote sustainable patterns of production and consumption. Recognition of cultural diversity promoted tolerance and solidarity in both local and national communities, and favoured wider participation

in public life. Ensuring equal access to cultural life by women and men also helped to enhance social cohesion.

40. It was encouraging that several of the targets in the report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals had reflected the cross-cutting nature of culture as an enabler and a driver of sustainable development. The international community should build on General Assembly resolution 68/223 with a view to integrating culture fully into the post-2015 development agenda.

41. **Mr. Kohona** (Sri Lanka) said that migration had complex implications for development in both origin and destination countries. While it sometimes led to a brain drain in developing countries, it also generated remittances that contributed significantly to those countries, and it provided high skill levels and cheap labour for developed countries. The effects of migration dynamics must be addressed through global approaches, involving both developed and developing countries. It was a historical fact, rarely acknowledged, that many of today's developed countries were created by migrants. The Declaration of the 2013 High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development could be a platform for the inclusion of migration-related targets in the post-2015 development agenda.

42. The migration debate was of particular importance to Sri Lanka, where remittances were a substantial source of foreign exchange earnings. His Government had put in place a number of programmes to provide services to nationals seeking employment overseas and to assist in repatriation in the event of need. Sri Lanka had ratified the Migrant Workers Convention in 1996, and had been elected twice to the United Nations Committee on Migrant Workers. Protecting the rights of migrants required differentiated vulnerabilities based on gender, age and health to be taken into account. In particular, it should be noted that close to half of all migrants were now women. He urged Member States to adopt a more proactive approach to the protection of migrant workers, taking into account not only the social and economic aspects, but also cultural factors.

43. *Mr. Cardi (Italy) resumed the Chair.*

44. **Mr. Estreme** (Argentina) said that his country was committed to building a just and equitable social order in which the most vulnerable groups were protected. That required a strong role for the State, the

establishment of wealth distribution mechanisms and the creation of a new global financial architecture that provided viable alternatives to existing international financial institutions, through democratic structures in which developing countries were fairly represented.

45. Migration was a result of globalization and of structural and political conditions in the countries of origin and destination. In Argentina, the economic and social rights of migrants were fully protected under the law. The relationship between migration and development went beyond mere economic factors and the human rights of migrants must be fully respected. Furthermore, since the causes of international migration were to be found in underdevelopment, the only real response to the challenges of migration was to work for a more equitable international system that promoted development for all nations. Migratory regularization should be seen as crucial for migrants' human development and integration into destination countries. In that regard, he urged all States that had not yet done so to ratify the Migrant Workers Convention.

46. The State also had a central role in promoting culture on the basis of equitable economic development and social inclusion. Argentina sought to democratize access to culture as a tool for social transformation, and had had great success in its efforts to create cultural spaces accessible to all.

47. Both an active State and a committed multilateral system were needed in order to make progress towards sustainable and inclusive development, with respect for human rights as its cornerstone. Argentina supported all initiatives aimed at achieving such sustainable development.

48. **Ms. Morgan** (Mexico) said that her country had actively promoted a new vision of migration that respected all migrants as people, regardless of their migratory status, and recognized the contribution of migration to the economy, culture and society of countries of origin, transit and destination. The Declaration of the 2013 High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development would be an important point of reference for Governments, international organizations and civil society, as well as for multilateral forums such as the Global Forum on Migration and Development. Issues relating to international migration, including the need to reduce the transaction costs of migrant remittances, must be included in the post-2015 development agenda; if that

new agenda was to be truly universal, it could not exclude millions of persons who were in particularly vulnerable situations.

49. Culture had the potential to serve as a driver of knowledge, social cohesion, reconciliation and development. It could also be a factor for regional integration, the preservation of biodiversity, poverty eradication, and sustainable production and consumption. Her delegation welcomed the incorporation of culture as a cross-cutting theme in the proposed sustainable development goals, and would continue to promote the perspective of culture in the finalization of the post-2015 development agenda.

50. **Mr. Haniff** (Malaysia) said that globalization needed to meet the needs of the most vulnerable countries. Malaysia had benefited from increased market access owing to both trade liberalization and FDI. With a properly managed results-oriented approach, globalization could be a means of correcting inequities between countries. In order to address the challenges of globalization, capacity-building through training and technology transfer was essential. Trade reform was also vital, and, in that regard, a realistic set of deliverables needed to be identified in preparation for the conclusion of the Doha Round. There was also an urgent need to create an international environment for sustained, inclusive and equitable growth, starting with genuine reform of the international financial system.

51. The United Nations should play the same leading role in promoting the post-2015 development agenda as it had in promoting the MDGs. A dedicated pool of resources should be made available to assist developing countries in building their infrastructure. In order to better manage globalization, institutional structures should be more responsive to rapid global changes. There was also a need for genuinely equal partnerships that operated according to the principles of common but differentiated responsibilities, solidarity, national ownership and self-determination.

52. **Mr. Pisarevich** (Belarus) said that the 2013 High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development had provided important new guidelines that would allow the development potential of migration to be more fully realized. Although the complex nexus between migration and development, especially sustainable development, was still poorly understood, it was important to take it into account in

the deliberations on the post-2015 development agenda. As a significant component of demographic processes, migration could relieve social pressure in some regions while favouring economic development in others. If properly regulated and monitored, migration could promote inclusive social and economic development; however, it was important to combat illegal immigration, as well as human trafficking, which was a distorted form of migration. The two areas should be addressed together, since success in one area would lead to success in the other. In that regard, the seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, held in Vienna in October 2014, had yielded positive results.

53. His Government's national programme on demographic security for 2011-2015 sought to optimize the benefits of migration by reducing emigration in order to preserve Belarusian intellectual and labour potential while also attracting skilled migrants from abroad. In partnership with IOM, Belarus had established in 2007 an international training centre for professionals who worked to control migration and combat human trafficking.

54. **Mr. Patriota** (Brazil) said that while globalization offered numerous opportunities to big business and large investors, the people as a whole had not shared in the benefits. Countries needed to adopt people-centred public policies that provided a cushion against the negative impact of globalization. The United Nations, through its development system, its Economic and Social Council, and its recently created high-level political forum on sustainable development, could help to temper the invisible hand of capital by making people-focused policy recommendations.

55. Rio+20 had recognized the potential contribution of culture to development; in addition, both UNESCO and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development had highlighted the importance of the creative industries for poverty alleviation. Culture and the creative industries had been drivers of progress and social inclusion in Brazil. Investing in culture could help to change unsustainable patterns of consumption and production, especially now that consumer lifestyles previously associated with the North were increasingly being replicated in certain segments of societies in the South.

56. As a country of both origin and destination, Brazil was especially sensitive to the rights of migrant workers. Undocumented or irregular migrants must not be treated as criminals; their human rights should be upheld under all circumstances. Both national and migrant workers should be protected without distinction, in accordance with the relevant provisions of ILO conventions and multilateral declarations. The treatment of undocumented minors was a matter of particular concern. Brazil reiterated its commitment to the agreements reached at the Rio+20 Conference on factoring population and migration issues into sustainable development strategies.

57. **Mr. Narang** (India) said that although globalization had brought people together and created wealth, its benefits were unevenly shared and its costs unevenly distributed. In view of the interdependence engendered by globalization, and the scale and scope of common problems, a zero-sum approach would no longer be enough. Neither were international rules that favoured the developed world appropriate in the twenty-first century. As the South was being asked to take on wider responsibilities, it also needed to be given a greater voice in international decision-making. Equity required respect for the world's developmental diversity; developing countries should be allowed policy space greater action should be demanded from the developed world. Greater sharing of resources was also needed to address the challenges of climate change.

58. One of globalization's defining features was mobility, of both goods and people. Any approach to international migration should seek to maximize its benefits and reduce its negative effects. Procedures for the movement of natural persons to deliver services (Mode 4 movement) should be liberalized and simplified in order to allow specialists in developing countries to move to the developed countries where their skills were in demand. However, concerted action was required to tackle irregular migration, which had serious security implications and often gave rise to trafficking.

59. India promoted an approach to culture that embraced difference, celebrated diversity and promoted mutual respect. Such an inclusive approach allowed for the pursuit of collective objectives in a spirit of solidarity. A flexible approach to global norm-setting that took into account specific cultural and national characteristics was essential to the success of

development initiatives and the formulation of the post-2015 development agenda. Globalization needed to shift from a narrow preoccupation with markets to a broader concern with people. His country's ancient tradition of seeking a dialogue with nature rather than dominating it, and its culture of frugality, were particularly relevant to ongoing efforts towards sustainable development.

60. **Mr. Ben Mellouk** (Morocco) said that the Secretary-General's eight-point agenda for action was a useful framework, in particular when it came to protecting the human rights of migrants. The United Nations should promote cooperation at the international and regional levels to help countries of origin, transit and destination optimize the benefits of international migration, including for development, and to address the associated challenges. The Organization should also continue to raise Member States' awareness of the need to ratify and comply with international instruments on the rights of migrants. Migration was a potential catalyst for development, and should be included in the post-2015 development agenda. In the meantime, Member States needed to exhibit the political will necessary to fulfil their commitments on such issues as the reduction of remittance transfer fees, portability of social security benefits and provision of decent work.

61. Migration was affected by economic crises, political conflicts and climate change, as well as by the emergence of new hubs of economic growth in the South. Morocco was in the process of transforming from a country of origin and transit into a country of destination thanks to the employment opportunities offered by its dynamic economy and its democratization process, as well as its long-standing relationships with the countries of sub-Saharan Africa and the Greater Arab Free Trade Area. It was taking measures to manage migration, in accordance with its international obligations, and had established a new immigration policy that reflected its commitment to South-South cooperation and to protecting the rights and liberties of citizens and foreign residents alike, including through the establishment of interministerial committees to manage asylum requests and combat human trafficking.

62. **Mr. Kassaye** (Ethiopia) said that global output and employment had not yet recovered from the recent economic crisis. Because policies implemented in one part of the world had spillover effects on countries in

other regions, urgent efforts were needed to strengthen international policy coordination and development cooperation. In particular, countries at a nascent stage of development, which were often vulnerable to external shocks, were still suffering from weaker demand for their exports and lower commodity prices as a result of the crisis. The third International Conference on Financing for Development, to be held in Addis Ababa in 2015, needed to produce concrete deliverables if the goal of eradicating extreme poverty by 2030 was to be met. The Bali package that had emerged from the ninth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization should be implemented in a timely fashion so that least developed countries could participate actively in international trade. Although FDI was important, ODA and debt relief should remain at the heart of international development cooperation. Many least developed countries had been working to build up their industrial bases, but agriculture remained the mainstay of their economies, and international support was imperative to help them enhance the productivity of their agricultural sectors and better manage their natural resources.

63. His delegation supported the Secretary-General's eight-point agenda for action. Migration should be viewed not only from an economic perspective, but also in the light of its social, cultural and environmental impact. Exploitation, trafficking and xenophobia should be eliminated, remittance transfer costs should be reduced, and migration should be mainstreamed into global, regional and national development agendas. His Government stood ready to implement the Declaration of the 2013 High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development.

64. **Ms. Shen** (Singapore) said that, while globalization had brought new opportunities for many people, its homogenizing influence on local cultures was a concern. Her country was no stranger to globalization and, by advocating free trade practices and transparent policies, had harnessed its positive impact to become the second most competitive economy in the world according to the World Economic Forum's Global Competitiveness Report for 2013-2014. Singapore had been built by Chinese, Indian and Malaysian immigrants, all of whom had brought with them their unique cultures, languages and customs. It now faced the challenge of maintaining the delicate balance between diversity and cohesion as it sought to integrate a growing population of new

citizens. To that end, it held an annual Heritage Festival that promoted cultural performances and community activities, and it was also creating spaces for the arts through a Public Art Trust.

65. The 2013 Creative Economy Report published by UNESCO and UNDP had highlighted the importance of culture to sustainable development. The creative economy was an important generator of income and jobs in developing countries. It also affirmed cultural identity, whose potential to serve as an enabler of development should be recognized in the post-2015 development agenda.

66. **Mr. Fondukov** (Russian Federation) said that his delegation recognized the increasing complexity of international migration and its impact on countries of origin, transit and destination. The countries concerned should be encouraged to participate on a voluntary basis in discussions on the opportunities and challenges of migration. Multilateral, regional and bilateral cooperation had already proven its effectiveness. In order to ensure safe, orderly and regular migration, migrant labour should be regulated in accordance with countries' demographic interests, with respect for their territorial integrity as well as the human rights of migrants and indigenous populations. Further study was needed on the consequences of migration for both origin and destination countries, particularly as remittances sent by skilled emigrants were an important factor for the development of countries of origin.

67. In 2013, the Russian Federation had received more than 12 million migrants, primarily from members of the Commonwealth of Independent States. In addition to a national migration policy, some 40 regulations concerning migrant labour had been adopted in order to ensure equal rights for migrants while also protecting the national economy and labour market and upholding the rights of Russian citizens.

68. Because migration was such a sensitive topic, proposed legal changes should be widely discussed throughout society before they were adopted. Foreign workers already had equal rights and duties alongside Russian citizens. By law, there could be no discrimination in terms of working conditions and pay on the basis of gender, race, nationality, language or religion. Moreover, the children of migrant workers were eligible to attend preschool and to receive a full education, while migrant workers and their families

were entitled to free emergency care and other medical assistance.

69. The Russian Federation stood ready to share its experience in managing migration, particularly through the use of information technologies.

70. **Mr. Rahman** (Bangladesh) said that although migration had not featured in the MDGs, in recent years it had increasingly been recognized as an enabler and driver of development. The discourse on migration had been advanced by the 2013 High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, and the Open Working Group had made reference to migration in its proposed sustainable development goals. Bangladesh aimed to ensure "migration with dignity," and had taken steps to mainstream migration into its national development process. It was an active member of the Regional Consultative Process on the Management of Overseas Employment and Contractual Labour for Countries of Origins in Asia (the Colombo Process) and had hosted the 2013 global leadership meeting that had been the culmination of the Global Thematic Consultation on Population Dynamics. The Dhaka Declaration that had emerged from that meeting had served as a reference document for the High-level Dialogue. Bangladesh had also hosted the Global Experts Meeting on Migration and the Post-2015 Development Agenda held in 2014, and had recently been selected as 2016 Chair of the Global Forum on Migration and Development.

71. Although remittances were no substitute for FDI, they had a significant impact on poverty reduction. It was therefore vital to reduce to less than 3 per cent the transaction costs of migrant remittances and eliminate remittance corridors with costs higher than 5 per cent. His delegation supported the proposal to hold high-level dialogues on migration at regular intervals, and hoped that the Secretary-General's synthesis report on the post-2015 development agenda would adequately reflect the links between migration and development. The international community should address international migration on the basis of common understanding and genuine partnership; civil society also had a role to play in raising awareness of the need for responsible recruitment.

72. **Mr. Lennartsson** (Sweden) said that, as Chair of the Global Forum on Migration and Development from January 2013 to June 2014, Sweden had focused on the theme of unlocking the potential of migration for

inclusive development, and had set the goal of making the Forum more development-focused, dynamic and durable. At the final meeting under its chairmanship, held in Stockholm in May 2014, discussions had focused on the contributions of migration to economic and social development, and the incorporation of migration into development planning. Participants had strongly recommended the inclusion of migration in the post-2015 development agenda, both to safeguard the human rights of migrants and to reflect the development potential of migration. Civil society participants at the Stockholm meeting had adopted the Civil Society Stockholm Agenda, which had already been signed by over 250 civil society organizations worldwide. When migration was excluded from the international development agenda, the needs and the potential of countless human beings became invisible; it was therefore important to ensure that Governments and development actors alike analysed and acted upon the opportunities and challenges that migration presented.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.